Thomas E. SLOWE et al. 09/978,592 Page 2

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to place the application in better form for examination. The attachment to this Preliminary Amendment entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification.

Applicant hereby requests an action on the merits at the earliest opportunity.

Date: December 21, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D. Registration No. 41,289

VENABLE

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 962-4800 Telefax: (202) 962-8300

MAS/ab/trl DC2-340269

Thomas E. SLOWE et al. 09/978,592 Page 3

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph [1] is amended as follows:

	[1]	This application claims the priority of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/881,065	5,
filed.	June 15,	2001, and U.S. Patent Application No. <u>09/956,971</u> [], filed	
Septe	mber 21,	2001, [Attorney Docket Number 37112-173581,] both of which are	
incom	orated h	erein by reference.	